

wavelength.

Po Box.5, Hunstanton, Norfolk. PE 36 5AU

Goodbye Sunshine... ..Farewell Jackie

In the space of a few weeks Britain lost two of her most notable Free Radio stations Radio Jackie in South West London and Sunshine Radio in Ludlow, Shropshire. Here are their stories

Sunshine Radio had planned to closedown voluntarily as a gesture of good faith to the authorities in an attempt to gain a licence under the community radio programme scheduled to begin in 1986. The plan was to have closed down after the station's breakfast show on the morning of February 21st. Matters however did not quite work out. When the presenter arrived at the studio he found that the transmitter was not on the air. An engineer was then sent to the transmitting site, located at Villa Farm, Greete where he discovered that the coaxial feeder between the transmitter and the aerial had been cut by either an axe or a spade. When the transmitter was switched on without the aerial connected, it blew itself up. Graham Symonds who founded the station from just weekend broadcasting to its full seven days a week programming said "I cannot understand why anyone would want to do this damage because it was closing down anyway. It is just a nasty situation. Symonds however is still confident of Sunshine Radio obtaining a community licence on February 22nd he said "We have closed down voluntarily and the transmitter equipment has been handed over to the DTI. This was done as a gesture of good faith because we have plans to return at the end of the year under the new community licencing system. This is a new type of broadcasting which the government has just announced, like that of Sunshine, not controlled by the BBC or the IBA. It is stations like Sunshine and those in London which have put this idea before the government. There was no threat of us being raided or closed down. We just handed the transmitter over. Sunshine Radio has been


preparing the way for the future and we had to closedown otherwise it would have ruined the chance of being able to establish a station in the future, which will hopefully be by the end of the year."

However would you hand over a perfectly good transmitter? or did Sunshine Radio blow their transmitter up on purpose to prevent the DTI from receiving a perfectly good medium wave transmitter?

Britain's best known land based Free Radio station, Radio Jackie closed on February 4th, 1985. As we reported last issue Jackie was among a number of the London stations which were raided over the weekend of February 2nd.

Jackie's troubles began at around 11.25 on Friday morning with a raid which cost them £10,000 worth of equipment. 20 department of trade officials and police were involved. Having returned to the air a further raid took place in the early hours of Sunday morning, when at 2am DTI officials took a further £6000 worth of transmitting and studio equipment.

A meeting of Radio Jackie directors then decided that the station would have to close. Returning on the Monday morning at 11.00 it was announced that Radio Jackie would officially closedown at 16.00 that afternoon, until they were granted a community licence to broadcast legally. The station however did go right through until 19.03 using 150 watts on medium wave 227m/1323kHz and 50 watts on FM 103.3 which was also used as a link between the studio and the medium wave transmitter. However even the final broadcast did not go without trouble as at 18.57 the medium wave site was raided, leaving the station on FM only. The studio equipment used for those final hours was a disco console which had been loaned to the station by Skyline Radio.

 **radio JACKIE**
24 hours a day in SW London

An interesting survey appeared in the Media Column of the Guardian, March 18th following the closure of Radio Jackie. Local councillor for Cheam West, Ken Cole carried out the survey in Sutton High Street in Surrey, in association with a group of Young Conservatives from South West London. The survey revealed massive support for the now closed station. 129 people were interviewed - "Covering both sexes and a broad age range" 88.4 % had heard of the station and of these 88.7 % said that they had listened to it. 85.2 % knew that Jackie was not licenced and 90.4 % thought that it should be, certainly considerably supported. The most interesting question in the survey was No.5 "Would the attitude of political candidates towards Radio Jackie influence the way you voted at an election?" Hardly surprising the answer by most people was "No" However it is not as simple as it may seem. Only 62.6% actually said no. There were 20.6 Dont Knows and 16.8% said Yes. According to Cole several factors will determine the outcome of the elections, he says that the candidates stand to loose far more support by being hostile to Jackie than he would gain.

I don't know about you but cast your minds back to the days of Radio Nordzee and see what you can remember about their election campaign. . .

We now have further details on the London raids which took place at the beginning of February. The stations raided were Asian People's Radio, Muswell Hill, London Creek Radio in North London, ACE (Asian Community Entertainment) Radio and Venus Radio, both in Haringey and Solo Radio in Crystal Palace. The other station raided was of course Radio Jackie.

You may be interested in what some of the Caroline DJs are now doing; Andy Archer, after a brief spell with Countysound in Guilford is now programme controller at Radio Orwell in Ipswich. Peter Quinn, whose voice still appears on Caroline for Priority Air Freight is working as a relief DJ on Brighton's Southern Sound. Robin Ross is on Red Rose Radio in Blackpool.

That's the end of this edition, many thanks to all those who sent in reports the Copydate for the June edition is June 5th.

The Hall of Fame is;
Glenn, Podney, Steve, Ian, Paul, Dave, Alan, Neal, John, Phillip, Anoraks UK.

AIRSPEC NEWS

The fourteenth and final issue of the popular Free Radio magazine was published in early February. Sadly it was not up to the standard we had known from Airtspec in previous years. First published in April 1981 under the title "Free Airwaves" Airtspec had continued through until August 1984, merging with Spectrum and later with FRS News. After August Editor Stuart Hardy had found it impossible to continue with 'A' levels to study for and a loss of his interest in Free Radio.

Airtspec News No.14 looks back at Free Radio during the magazines lifetime, and forward to the future. Steve West editor of the Spectrum section will now be helping Barrie and Ruth with the Anoraks UK Weekly Report. We must thank Stuart for the support he has given the Free Radio cause over the past few years and wish both him and Steve the best of luck for the future.

Airtspec News is available for 20p+a stamped addressed envelope from Stuart Hardy, 36 Nott-ingham Road, Lowdham, Nottinghamshire, NG14 7AJ

FREE RADIO ROUND-UP.

Following in Airtspec's footsteps Free Radio Round-Up is produced by three Editors Steve Anderson, Paul Graham and Russel Jackson. The format is reduced A4, the same size as Wavelength, in fact this is the size adopted by most club Newsletters today. FRR is well written and covers Short Wave, Medium wave and FM. The first issue also contains an interesting article on Radio Phoenix, the Offshore station which wasn't. Prehaps the only complaint is the poor layout, whereby too much information is crammed into only a short space, and like the first edition of this magazine, there are no staples.

Free Radio Round up costs 40p+ a stamped addressed envelope for 16 pages. Write to FRR, Po Box 539, Blackpool.

MONITOR.

In my opinion the best Free Radio Magazine in all, concentrating entirely on the three, offshore stations, but primarily Laser 558 and Caroline, Monitor 29 chronicles practically every movement on the Ross Revenge and the Communicator.

Amongst the features Keith King writes about his time on Caroline and John Lewis writes on the early days of the m.v. Communicator. An excellent example of the detail to which Monitor goes is shown by a complete listing of the hours each DJ spent on air during 1984. There are even some specially drawn cartoons drawn by Kevin Macey which really adds a finishing touch.

For just 25p you receive 52 pages in A4 reduced format and so it is hardly surprising that many readers send more. Payment can be made by cash or uncrossed British Postal order only. Send your payment to 31 Avondale Road, Conflent, Essex SS7 1EH.

ON THE BANDS

As we have seen in the past Radio Jackie have not given up yet. A report in the Daily Telegraph on February 4th stated that radio Jackie was planning to take matters to the European Court of Human Rights, charging the Department of Trade with infringement of Freedom of Speech. A DTI spokesman has made it clear that if Radio Jackie began broadcasting again, then they would be raided once more.

In the meantime to keep the stations name alive Radio Jackie DJs are running a series of Discos and a record - The Radio Jackie LP has been produced. It is available for £4.99 from Radio Jackie, 32 Central Road, Worcester Park, Surrey. Make cheques payable to Radio Jackie.

EDITORIAL

The Caroline Movement convention will no doubt be regarded as the Free Radio event of the year I think that most people, including myself will say they enjoyed it, perhaps next time the Hall will be larger.

We have a short editorial this time in an attempt to fit everything in. At the moment I am anticipating getting plenty of listening time over the next few days as I have just spent most of my morning getting rather wet. Still we can't win them all - can we Ian!

As a final thought if you find any pieces of equipment which you reckon others might wish to learn about, please write and let us know.

Adrian

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Years Subscription. (6 Issues)
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Rest of the World: £3.00 or 14 IRCs

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Cheques and Postal Orders made payable to "Wavelength".
Bank notes in foreign currencies are accepted.
Please tape all coins to card.

m.v. Four Freedoms.

Wonderful Radio London International, the station which appears at the moment to be more conspicuous by her absence has been making noises once again.

On short wave programmes from the Rebel Radio Network John England, project Manager for WRLI said that a Bulletin, explaining the delays in the launch of the station had now been produced, and was available from their mailing address.

The Sunday Times, February 10th spoke to Les Palmer, principal of the Texas based Marketing Communication Counsellors who said that talks were underway to sign up advertisers. John England however says that The Sunday Times article was the result of a telephone call between the newspaper and Palmer and since he had been away from the scene for some months. The article included details of a proposed Country and Western station, which England says he knows nothing about.

m.v. Communicator.

After several weeks on a very minute power Laser 558 restored her signal strength on the afternoon of Wednesday February 27th and apart from the occasional break in transmission has remained there ever since. No longer will the station be referred to as "All London and South East Radio" in fact at times the signal was worse than that.

Amongst the staff the biggest news is that David Lee Stone, who since the departure of Jessie Brandon has been music controller is to leave the Communicator and join Radio Luxembourg. The station of the stars has been taking more than a passing interest in the offshore stations recently. During January Radio Luxembourg also offered a position to Jay Jackson of Radio Caroline. Jay, although obviously delighted refused announcing on his return from shore leave "thanks for the offer, but no thanks". Three new female DJs have now joined Laser, they are Christine Carson, Liz West and Erin Kelly. Chris Carson is 24 and comes from KXIQ in Iowa City, she speaks fluent French and likes Frankie goes to Hollywood (no comment-Adrian) Liz West comes from Palm Springs and is apparently a classical ballet dancer. Finally Erin Kelly we hear is a green belt at karate. She comes from Alabama.

On dry land although owner of Virgin Records and Airlines Richard Branson may not have bought Laser we understand that he has been entering into discussions with Music Media International, Laser's marketing people. MMI say that Virgin can offer Laser a number of services which may include the mer-

-chandising of Laser T-Shirts and Posters, although these may not be sold directly through the Virgin chain of stores.

In London during February John Moss, the 30 year old president of Music Media talked about the expansion of Laser. He is confident that Laser will soon be making profits despite the fact that at the moment two thirds of the stations airtime remains unsold. Being a businessman Moss naturally wants to see Laser making profits, but maintains that even when airtime on the station is fully booked there will only be six minutes of advertising an hour compared to nine minutes on the ILR stations.

Back in New York MMI say that they have been approached directly by Japanese companies who want to work direct from Tokyo, while USA Today, Bose Speakers and Contiki America have all renewed their contracts.

According to Moss there are plans on the drawing board for a second music service. This time following a more middle of the Road format. There is a possibility that this might open towards the end of 1985, but Moss is making no promises. In recent months there have also been reports of a second ship owned by Laser to take up an anchorage off the French mediterranean coast and a third boat also planned.

m.v. Ross Revenge.

Radio Caroline celebrated her 21st Birthday over the Easter Weekend Saturday 6th April, although the actual date was March 27th. On Easter Sunday and Monday the DJs top 200 was broadcast between 9.00 and 3.00. The records were presented in a random order and were chosen by some of the DJs who had worked on Caroline during the past two decades. On Easter Sunday afternoon Chris Pearson and John Lewis presented the "Whole total package" celebration, which included a darts competition amongst the events. The competition was to have been held with the Laser DJs from the m.v. communicator, but the rough sea conditions prevented a crossing between the two boats and so it was held against the Dutch DJs from Radio Monique. When Chris Pearson went down to the mess Room to take his turn at dart playing John Lewis took over the presentation of the programme, this was just after 4.30. He then continued through until well past 1.00 the following morning.

Amongst the Staff changes Tony James has now left the station and can be heard during the afternoon on Dublin's Radio Nova, using the name Tony Mackenzie. Since the last edition of Wavelength there have been three new staff members on air. Bob Matthews and Peter Phillips have both joined from Radio Jackie, Bob Matthews has since left the ship, but Peter Phillips is about to clock up his sec-

ond month on board as station newsreader, he has also been presenting the occasional shows at the weekends. Chris Pearson joined on March 21st, and has since been nicknamed 'Boy Pearson' by those on board. Susan Charles is now back presenting the evening programme from 10.00. Fergie the cook has now adopted the name 'Fergie McNeill' since he had been presenting the late evening programme, he has also used the name Jimmy Bond.

Plans are also in hand for a change in format on Caroline, as part of the preparation a new 'T' aerial has been erected for the 576 service. On 24th, 25th March the 576 service was replaced by 585kHz, although this provided better daytime reception, there is a strong Spanish station on the same channel which is audible at night. The 576 frequency has interference from a German station. In General reception of 576 has improved slightly in recent weeks.

Reports in the press have indicated that John Lewis and Jay Jackson may both be leaving Caroline. We have already mentioned Jay's offer to join Luxembourg, but during the "whole total package" Jay explained how he had left the Ross Revenge for 48 hours and was ready to go out to Luxembourg the next day, when he got to the airport he just "bottled out" not wanting to be heard "at the end of somebody's CB". John Lewis said that there had been reports of him joining an ILR station or going back to "the neighbours" (Laser).

John said that when he finally did get Shoreleave he certainly would be back. He then advised us to tune in Tuesday for more rumours. On Tuesday morning we found that John had gone on Shoreleave and Simon Barrett was presenting the Breakfast Show.

Advertising is on the increase with a new advertisement for holidays at the Arabian Sands Holiday village in Morocco and the offer of five holidays to be given away. The same promotion is currently being run on Laser. Dickie Dirts (Jeans and Shirts) a shop owned and based in London has been advertising on both Laser and Caroline, perhaps Mr Dirt is not familiar with the Marine Offences Act. Whilst on the subject of Marine Offences I would be grateful for details of the Dutch Act of 1974, and any differences with the British Laws.

On Saturday March 9th Police and Customs officers intercepted a boat which had just returned from a trip out to the Ross Revenge. The East Anglian Daily Times reported on March 11th that two members of the Free Radio association were questioned. The Essex Police launch Alert caught up with the boat ten miles off the coast of Essex. When the boat arrived at Wallsea Island made a search of the boat

and took the names of those on board.

We understand that the DJs leaving the Ship at that time were Bob Matthews and Dave Richards.

Radio Monique continues much the same on 963 kHz. A recent survey in Holland reports that Radio Caroline is the most popular offshore station. Advertisements on the station are frequent, and one aired before the handover to Caroline is in English.

Dutch Evangelist Johann Maasbach presents a Daily programme on weekdays 6.30-7.00 and on Sundays from 8.30. Maasbach was previously heard during the 1970's on Radio Nordzee and also on Caroline's Dutch service.

Although Radio Caroline does not give a QSL for reception reports Monique replies with a coloured card on the ship, enclose 1 IRC.

HELP!

A group interested in Offshore Radio (not the DTI) would like your advice on the various items needed in setting up an off-shore station in the 1980s bearing in mind the various legislation which has been passed. The group would like to know about ships, their supply, DJs, sea crew and suitable transmitter power. All replies will be treated in the strictest confidence. Write to Box A, Wavelength, Po Box 5, Hunstanton.

Your memories of Free Radio in the past, you can write for us on this or any other subject. Perhaps you have found a piece of equipment just right for a Free Radio studio. Send your articles to WAVELENGTH, Po Box 5, Hunstanton. Norfolk PE36 5AU.



Short Wave

Addresses for this section are indicated in brackets and shown at the end.

Conditions over the past two months on the Short Wave have been very poor, with long skip conditions making reception at its best only in Scotland and the South West of Britain. No doubt our readers on the continent took this to their advantage. Even Podney in Cornwall had problems on February 10th with local electrical interference.

This month in order to make the Short-Wave section easier to follow we are listing stations in date order as far as possible.

SPECTRUM WORLD BROADCASTING continue to be heard most weeks on 6240kHz. The station feels that it does not have much in common with other Free Radio stations. Spectrum's Gerry Sinclair tells us that they study "Radcom" and other technical publications to select the best frequency and time for the area they wish to broadcast to. With this information Spectrum have been able to reach the United States and New Zealand and with the latter claim to be the first QRP station to be heard there on 7 and 13MHz. During March and April Spectrum are making a series of broadcasts, possibly on a daily basis, aiming at North America. The transmissions, in the lower side-band and will alternate between 3905 and 7350kHz with a power of between 220 watts and 2kW. (1)

RADIO WAVES INTERNATIONAL have been broadcasting on both 48 and 41m on February 10th on 6275 and March 17th on 7339, both time with a weak signal. The station regularly makes relay broadcasts of stations including Canzoni Radio and Radio Pacific. It has been reported elsewhere that Pacific(2) have lost their relay with Radio Waves, however this is untrue, and has been confirmed by Pacific's Richard Grahame. (2)

RADIO PAMELA have also been receiving regular relays from a number of relay stations, including a UK station and Radio Delta they are currently planning a whole morning's programming via Radio Delmare on 6207 with English, Dutch and German DJs. A SATURDAY broadcast is also planned via Radio Dublin on 6910 starting at 9.30am and continuing through until 1100 (5)

FRS HOLLAND were heard on February 10th and again on 17 March on 6207 with their regular third Sunday relay via RADIO DELMARE. A Video of FRS-H will be available shortly. (3)

The German Station Radio Big Brother were heard with their regular monthly broadcast on February 17th on 6282kHz (4)

RADIO BLUEBIRD(6) are now heard regularly on various frequencies. They were first heard on 6295 in a QSO with Radio London UK on February 3rd and again on 6295 on February 17, 24th. Bluebird which broadcasts from the Netherlands was on 6545 on March 10th, on 6935

March 17th and March 24th on 6555.

WESTSIDE RADIO from Dublin(7) are on regularly on 6280, usually from 1100.

FALCON RADIO(8) was heard on February 17th on 6850, although they had to go off early as their batteries went flat. They were heard again on the same frequency on February 24th and March 10th. Falcon have also been heard on 6200 and welcome listeners to send in receiver reviews.

RADIO ATLANTIQUE 2000(3) were heard on both February 17th and March 17th on 7330

RADIO BATIDA(4) broadcast on 7350kHz on February 17th.

RADIO WOODPECKER(5)-over the Horizon Radio (1) were on 6260 with a test transmission on February 17th and again on March 3rd, this time using 6290. The station was using a QSO set and says it is not interested in regular programming, but wishes to continue as a relay station.

RADIO CLOG were heard via Radio Delmare on February 24th on 6207. (9) CLOG is the Clandestine Listeners Club of Germany and they publish regular bulletins.

BRITAIN RADIO INTERNATIONAL(10&11) continue their fourth Sunday Schedule, now on 6230 March included a fifth Sunday and so the station made an additional broadcast on March 31st. BRI's programming includes Free Radio News at 11.00BST and Jayne's Disco Show at 1145. Letters may take up to 10 weeks to receive a reply as the staff do not have as much time spare as they used to, but Roger Davis promises that everyone will receive a reply in due course.

RADIO METEOR, a Finnish station made a broadcast via Westside Radio, 6280 on February 24th from 1200 to 1227. (3)

RADIO VALLERI(12) were noted on February 24th on 6870 and on March 17 on 6250

RADIO TITANIC(3) were heard on 7360 on March 3rd and also on February 10th with DJ Tim Cooper.

RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL(5) made their regular 1st Sunday broadcast, March 3rd on 6230kHz. It is thought that the station's broadcasts are now made via a relay station in Great Britain.

The REBEL RADIO NETWORK appears to be the new name for the broadcasts from Wonderful Radio London International. They were heard on March 10th and again on March 24th on 6202kHz. In the latter broadcast DJ John England stated that the Alfascound tape of

the Radio England Story was false, as he had spoken to the original American Hackers

It was also announced that a Bulletin has been produced explaining what has happened to WRLI. (13) Climax Radio Services who have relayed WRLI on shortwave in the past say that they will shortly be relaying more USA stations. Climax ask that no more mail be sent to them at Po Box 5 as the cost of forwarding them to the states is quite high. They also ask that no further requests for relays should be made. Apparently their dust-men have been complaining about the amount of rubbish they have to collect, at least that's what Climax say!

KBSJ- which contrary to popular belief stands for Kelly Brown Sue Jacobs, the station's two DJs were heard on March 10th and also the month previous February 10th. During the March broadcast there was a hetrodyne with Spectrum World Broadcasting, who were using 6240 at the same time, this lasted until 1025 when SWB closed. The previous month however Spectrum had closed by prior arrangement at the earlier time of 1000. (14).

CAPITAL RADIO from Ireland were heard on 6268kHz, March 10th. DJ Aiden Hughes can now be heard under the name of Aiden Leonard on Dublin's Q102 on Saturdays 1900-2300 and on Sundays 1500-1900. (7-we think!)

RADIO RIDICULOUS(15) which stands for Radio In Diversion intending communication Under Limited Options Unclassified Status. made a further broadcast March 10th on 6277kHz.

STARBOARD SOUND(10) made a test broadcast on March 10th. The programme consisted of non stop music and jingles with very few announcements. The station was previously relayed in 1983 by South Dublin Radio. Regular programming will commence soon.

RADIO KRYPTON(1) made their final broadcast on March 17th with a live four hour transmission looking back at the History of the station and how the programmes had been put together. The station is closing due to both lack of time and money to keep it going. Perhaps Krypton's only fault as a station is their refusal to answer listeners mail- an important part of any Shortwave station.

KOL EUROPE(5) who had been missing from the airwaves for several months returned on March 17th with a Dx and Oldies programme.

RADIO APOLLO(4&5) repeated their Birthday programme as part of a complete morning's programmes on March 31st. Apollo suffered some co-channel interference from Falcon Radio. Although Dave Scott had contacted Apollo, the long skip conditions prevented either station from hearing the other.

GIANNEL RADIO were noted on March 31st on 6203kHz at 1036 and also on 6300 at 1130. (5)

Addresses

ATLANTA RADIO(5) were on air March 17th with the Regular DJs. The Atlanta Radio story is a tape telling the background behind the station over the past five years. It is available for £2 from their mailing address. The Sound of The Seas feature this month, presented by Tony Sullivan was on the Voice Of Peace.

Easter brought us a large number of stations on air SPECTRUM WORLD BROADCASTING were heard on Good Friday at 1010 on 6240 as part of their Easter programming. (1) and again on the Saturday with a relay of Radio Meteor (3)

On Easter Sunday RADIO DELMARE(16) relayed both CLOC at 0929 and FRS HOLLAND at 1239. In their own programme Delmare mentioned an evening broadcast for Africa and North America on 9070 & 9390KHz.

RADIO ATLANTIS SHORT WAVE made their Easter broadcast on 6238 with extracts from the popular station Radio Julie, which will be returning for a one off broadcast during June. RASW will make their next transmission, possibly on the first Sunday on 6238 or 6225. The Christmas transmission received over fifty letters and telephone calls numbering 20, a ten watt transmission in January 27th still brought in a further 20 letters.

VOICE OF THE LEEK(5) the famous Welsh station were heard on 6308 with RADIO APOLLO on 6266 at 1021. Apollo were heard again on Easter Monday April 4th QSOing with Weekend Music Radio and Radio Pluto.

An UNID station was heard in Dutch on April 7th on 7350 possibly identifying as RADIO NOVA4

The operator of Po Box 5 Hunstanton has asked us to mention that the box is now full and he will not be accepting anymore stations to use it as it already taken a considerable time to sort the mail each week and would not like the service to suffer.

When writing to the stations please enclose a Stamped Addressed envelope or 2 International Reply Coupons

- 1) 134 Eastworth Road, Chertsey, Surrey, KT16 8DT, England.
- 2) Postbox 130 , 92504, Rueil Malmaison, Cedex, France.
- 3) Postbus 41, 7700 AA Dedemsvaart, The Netherlands.
- 4) Po Box 750925, D2820, Bremen 70, West Germany.
- 5) Po Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk. England.
- 6) Postbus 2062, 2800BE, Gouda, The Netherlands.
- 7.) 310 Collins Avenue West, Dublin, Ireland
- 8.) Dept FR Po Box 99, Northampton England.
- 9.) c/o Wilfred Meyer, Po Box 540 101, D4100 Duisberg 11, West Germany.
+ Do not mention the station name on the envelope.
- 10) 32 Victoria Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 3NG, England.
- 11) Postbus 19074, 2501 DB Utrecht, The Netherlands.
- 12) 199 Grange Abbey Drive, Donaghmede, Dublin 13, Ireland.
- 13) Po Box 255 Venus, Texas, 76084, USA

14) Po Box 143, Wolverhampton, West Midlands England

15) Po Box 1019 , 2200 BA Nordwijk, The Netherlands.

16) Postbus 36 B 2000 Antwerp, Belgium.

Medium Wave FM

LONDON AND THE SOUTH EAST.

RADIO REFLEX in Maidenhead, Kent who were raided on December 18th after just one days broadcasting are now back on the air on 92 fm (announced as 94). From 1800-2400

ACE(ASIAN COMMUNITY ENTERTAINMENT) is a new station in the London area on 96.2 MHz between 2000 and 2330 Monday through Friday & between 1400 and 2300 on Saturdays and Sundays. The station is reported to be run by a wealthy Chinese businessman and an Indian Pop Singer.

RADIO ACTIVITY made a test transmission on March 25 on 104.5 but the station has not been heard since.

ASIAN PEOPLES RADIO broadcasts on 90.8 between 1400 and 2300 Monday through Friday and 1000-1500 & 1900-2300 at weekends.

BORDER RADIO, a popular late night community station in the Twickenham area is on the the stations who are applying to the GLC for a community radio grant + see this months Community Radio section.

RADIO CONTACT returned on March 25th on Monday evenings using 104.5

HORIZON are going steady on 92.5, VOICE OF THE IMMIGRANTS can be heard on 93 and LONDON GREEK RADIO (LGR) are heard on 104.1

LONDON WEEKEND RADIO, now referred to as just LWR for obvious reasons as they operate a daily service have been on and off recently, but they are now back on 94.2

PANOS GREEK RESTAURANT is a very unusual station, as it is (the name gives a more than subtle hint) a Restaurant (unlike Alice's which isn't) They have been heard on 105.5 playing Greek music and announcing a telephone number for people to ring and book tables. The sounds of customers etc, have been heard in the background during the broadcasts.

PHOENIX RADIO have now closed.

SUNFIRE RADIO was heard during February on Sunday evenings.

SINA RADIO is an Asian station on 92.

SOUTH BUCKS RADIO broadcasts between 19 & 2300 on 92.2.

SKYLINE RADIO are still going strong on 1413kHz and SOLAR RADIO is on 102.5 FM

3BR (3 Bridges Radio) have been noted around 612kHz between 1000 and 1300 on Sunday mornings, surely the furthest down the band for any land based Free Radio station in Britain

WEST LONDON RADIO broadcasts between 1200 and 1700 on Sundays ,89.9FM.

Finally in this section a number of readers have pointed out SOUTH EAST SOUNDS to me, particularly Iain Johnstone's Free Radio and programme, broadcast between 1300 and 1400. The station is on the air 1188kHz on Sundays between 1200 and 1700.

Addresses:

ACE RADIO Po Box 265, London N4 2QL

ASIAN PEOPLES RADIO Po Box 12, London N19 4SR

RADIO CONTACT 63 Sternhole Avenue, London SW

LONDON WEEKEND RADIO 265 Duncery Road, London SE9 4HW.

SUNFIRE RADIO 83 Dudley Road, Walton on Thames Surrey.

SKLINE RADIO 32 High Street, London SE25

SOLAR RADIO Unit 1,8-20 Well Street, London

WEST LONDON RADIO EM Broadcasting London, WCL 3XX.

SOUTH EAST SOUND 58 Aldersbrook Road, London E12 5DY.

MERSEYSIDE AND THE NORTH WEST.

The airwaves in the North West are quite silent following a recent series of raids. The "Manchester Evening News" reported on this March 18th. The article reported that it was the third raid on Southside Radio who had been transmitting from Hillgate, following a move from Mellor near Stockport.

Also raided was RADIO CAROUSEL. According Peter Davies, the managing Director of Southside they had now lost £150,000 worth of equipment to the DTI. The raid occurred at the same time as British Telecom were fitting new telephone lines, despite this latest raid Southside anticipates a return to the air.

At a court hearing on February 20th two founders of KFM Stephen Toon and Charles Turner were both given one month suspended prison sentences and fined £500 each another founder of the popular station was fined £300 and two further members £150 each. + KFM plan to go offshore- see our community radio section.

RADIO ATLANTIS 102.7/8 has now become KISS FM every Sunday with an Adult Orientated Rock (AOR) format.

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO 1026kHz have now been raided three times and have lost almost as many transmitters, but threw the last one out of the window when the DTI arrived! Apparently a group of children made off with the tx before SCR managed to get it back.

MERSEYLAND ALTERNATIVE RADIO (MAR 819) closed down due to lack of support, staff difficulties and no advertising income. The majority of programmes were repeated and the signal was very directional.

Radio Atlantis - Short Wave Service

- Q.S.L. to

Date

Time

FREQ.

SINPO rating

RADIO ATLANTIS,

P.O. Box 700825, D-2820,
BREMEN 75, WEST GERMANY.

AND

P.O. Box 5, HUNSTANTON,
NORFOLK, PE36 5AN,
ENGLAND.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER,
THIS Q.S.L. CONFIRMS YOUR REPORT.



RADIO ELENORE ran in conjunction with Radio Merseywaves and Programme Controller Dave Rogers along with Chris Taylor went to work at the Voice of Peace, so the station closed down last September.

As an update to Mark Terry's column last month; DOUGLAS VALLEY RADIO's caravan containing the UHF link and studio was raided in November 1984. Fines were imposed and the case was heard very near to that of KFM's in that same month.

RADIO KGW closed due to tx problems, which have now been fixed. They had a totally original format and would have been successful if the air enthusiasm had not have been deflated. The future of KGW is unknown.

CHORLEY COMMUNITY RADIO changed their name to Crystal Radio and moved to 1242kHz, but sadly closed as they were unable to find a suitable location. - there are no high rise blocks in Chorley!

RADIO MERSEY WAVES are still the only station operating from the Merseyside area. Their address is 18 Mallard Way, Moreton, Wirrel, Merseyside L46.

KFM have now returned to the air with a good medium wave signal on 1017kHz.

MIDLANDS

SUBWAY SOUNDS has been heard on two successive Sundays in February using 102.6 MHz FM for its broadcasts to the West Bromwich and Wallall areas of the West Midlands. The broadcasts on February 10th and 17th were made using a tx borrowed from UK Radio in Wolverhampton.

UK RADIO broadcasts to the Wolverhampton area of the West Midlands on Sunday afternoon between 1500 and 1700 on 103.5 FM

COUNTY RADIO has been heard in recent weeks on two FM outlets, the frequencies used are those previously in operation on alternate weeks - 94.4 and 104.8 mHz.

addresses.

Subway Sounds Po Box 143, Wolverhampton, West Midlands.

UK Radio, as Subway Sounds.

County Radio 4 Glencairn Road. Old Swan, Liverpool L13 2AL.

AROUND THE COUNTRY

Wrekin City Radio in Telford are planning to close in the hope of gaining a Community licence. Still in Telford SHROPSHIRE SOUND, every Sunday 2pm-6pm on 96.6mHz have now increased their power.

RADIO FREE CITY, Edinburgh are on the air Monday through Thursday between 6pm and 7pm with an all music policy on 95.6mHz. RFC the only known station in the city has been operating since January 1979.

RADIO RUSH, in Tonbridge Wells were raided on February 19th. Fine totalling £600 were

THE NETHERLANDS

Allen Dean writes from Burnley on the number of Dutch stations which can be heard, especially on Friday and Saturday evenings, the following were all heard after 2300.

RADIO MOONLIGHT(1620) Po Box 53 Hoogezand 9600 -AL.

RADIO ARMADA(1615) Po Box 9, 8130AA Lemeler-veld.

RADIO ARENA (1620) Po Box 47 Gaanderen

RADIO NIGHTRIDER (1615) Po Box 25 Emmalasaam

RADIO TUIMAN (1615) Po Box 307 Hoogezand 9600 AL

MUSIC BOY RADIO (1612) Po Box 38 Terapez 9560 AA.

Community

Plans for the development of Community Radio stations in Great Britain continue to develop, but already it looks as if the project will not be welcomed by everybody.

Following a parliamentary question from Robert Haywood MP, the Home Secretary, Leon Brittan said that he was firmly resolved to settle the community Radio situation as soon as possible. To emphasise things further the Home Office then issued a news Release, which quoted Mr Brittain's opinion's

"I have for sometime been interested in the idea of community Radio and am anxious to provide the opportunity for its development. It has however been difficult to assess what scope there might be for community radio in frequency terms, in advance of the international conference held at the end of last year which planned the VHF waveband. In the light of that conference, we now know what Spectrum will be available to the UK, in what timescale, so that it will now be possible to establish what assignments could be devoted to community radio.

"Although there is as yet no precise definition of community radio it is most commonly seen as representing a third tier of radio quite distinct from those services at present provided by the BBC and the IBA, and it describes two possible concepts. One represents the most local form of broadcasting; a low power transmitter broadcasting to the immediate neighbourhood, with the close involvement of the community. The other is of a station broadcasting across a wider area to what is called "a community of interest", such as an ethnic minority, or the enthusiasts for a particular kind of music"

A further statement is planned by Mr Brittan shortly but ending his assessment of the future of community radio the Home Secretary pointed to current Free Radio Operators.

"It is important to distinguish between community radio and the present pirate stations, which cause interference, steal news broadcasts and other copyright material, and operate in flagrant defiance of the law. The Government will continue to take action against the pirates, in order to retain control of the spectrum for licenced broadcasters. These will include as soon as the necessary decisions can be implemented, community radio stations - perhaps starting with some experimental stations and building up as frequencies become available. But there will be no room for community radio if the pirates have occupied the Spectrum beforehand".

A typical government statement perhaps but what we must try to do here is read between the lines. Radio Jackie and Sunshine Radio have already closed down in the hope that there will now be more chance of gaining a licence when they are granted. Jackie have said that they first want to "read the small print" to find out exactly what size the community radio areas will be and how much transmitter power will be allowed. While the Home Office continues to make noises about what might happen there is some confusion as to the possible outcome. Although the Home Office has said that there will be "no licences for Pirates" IGR's owner Chris Harmand, interviewed in Broadcast says that he knows different, but refuses to say who told him. The Greater London Council - if it doesn't get abolished first has set aside £600,000 to award in Studio grants to successful applicants.

However the launch of the community station programme does not look as if it is going to be plain sailing. There are suggestions that the stations will only be on a temporary experimental basis with only ten stations licenced to begin with, mostly in the London area and concentrating on the ethnic groups. Whilst this may be ideal for stations like London Greek Radio, others like Manchester's KFM are decidedly unhappy and has produced a plan to go offshore, anchoring off Liverpool with a team of eight DJs and a power of 0.5Kws. With this power they reckon they could easily reach the whole of the North West. The project would cost £20,000 to launch, excluding the ship and then £4,000 a week after that. The present advertising rate of £9 during peak time would then rise to £200 for 30 seconds. Although this is a considerable increase the rate would still be cheaper than any of the rival Independent Local stations. ILR are still sulking about any prospect of Free Radio stations being given a licence.

The decision by KFM could possibly lead to other stations taking a similar stand and instead of the Government launching a third tier in British Radio they could very well end up with a fourth.

CAROLINE 21st Celebration

On Saturday March 23rd, 1985 a group of 220 people crowded into a church hall in the London suburb of Leyton. The place was St Margaret's Hall and the event, The Caroline Movement's third convention - A 21st celebration.

The day began at 1200 when CM's John Birch and Geoff Baldwin officially opened the event. The mainstay of the day were the films, the first of which was a World in Action profile of Caroline founder Ronan O'Rahilly from 1966. This was followed by a taped message from Caroline DJ Simon Barrett, the message had been recorded a few weeks previously in the Netherlands where he had been working and it must have been a pleasant surprise for those who went on the organised Boat trip to the Ross Revenge on the Sunday afternoon to find Simon Barrett back working on the station.

The next part of the day was devoted to Laser, which was acknowledged as having brought Free Radio back into the public eye. We joined Laser 558 on air as they gave a special message to all of us at the convention. "If it wasn't for our neighbour across the Knock Deep we probably would not be here ourselves" We then saw the East Anglian Productions film of life on board the mv. Communicator. Bill Rollins from EAP then described to us one of the incidents which occurred while they were preparing to make the film. EAP decided to take out a rather large amount of Beer to the ships and while standing with it on the quayside of a small Essex port they were approached by a Police Car, needless to say they were worried as to how they could explain what they were doing about to head out to sea with several dozen crates of Beer. Rollins said that they had a lot of trouble in preparing the Caroline boxed set records, and it really made their year for them when Caroline returned.

Although Ronan O'Rahilly had refused to give a taped message to us or appear on stage he passed on his best wishes to those of us who had given Caroline special support over the years. John L. Moss (no relation to a certain DJ) the new president of Music Media International, the American company which sells airtime for Laser had sent a message, which was apparently recorded over the telephone! He described those on Caroline as "fine neighbours" he thanked them for their help as when their had been bad conditions on board the Communicator Caroline had been able to supply them with Fresh water and food. Moss promised us that Laser would soon be providing a full round the clock service. He added that Word of Mouth advertising had helped the station promote itself and during May a full detailed research project was going to be undertaken. The station has, said Moss been

able to break down international barriers through the stations international flavour. "We do not try to offer News, Traffic and Travel, but aim for Laser to be everybody's second favourite station". Going on to speak about advertising Moss said that he had advised local advertisers to contact their local ILR station. All in all an interesting message.

Events continued with interviews from the Voice of Peace, the only offshore station based outside of Europe. We were introduced to Carl Kingston, who worked on the station back in 1977 and is now responsible for the recruitment of English DJs. Kevin Turner described life on board the Peace ship as a "peculiar existence". If the ship needed anything said Turner, then it would just head in for port. Since leaving the Voice of Peace Kevin Turner has worked for ABC Radio in Ireland and for Radio Sovereign, both in Britain and Italy. He now hopes to join an ILR station, which he hopes will be more comfortable. We were also introduced to Benny James, Quentin Martin and later on in the day Alan West. Perhaps the most boring part of the day was the Free Radio Auction, which although enjoyed by some people seemed as if it was never going to finish.

To me the highlight of the day was the showing of the "Day in the life of Radio Caroline" shot last July on board the Ross Revenge, it not only showed us around the ship, but gave us some wonderful views of the sun shining over the North Sea. On stage were a number of Caroline DJs past and present Tom Hardy, Carl Kingston, Dave Richards, Bruce Purdy, Andy Johnson (once the editor of the Caroline Movement magazine), Tony Gareth, Peter Clarke, James Kaye, and Paul McKenna. Many of the DJs had now left the station Paul McKenna and Tom Hardy are both working in Luton on Chiltern Radio while Peter Clarke and Tony Gareth had been working in Leeds on Radio Aire, the station had however ran into financial difficulties and Gareth's contract is not to be renewed, following a takeover by Red Rose Radio. Also on Aire is Carl Kingston, who has said he may not have presented his last programme from the Ross Revenge yet, but refused to say anything definite.

During the mid evening I was able to have a short conversation with two of the Caroline DJs Tony Gareth and Carl Kingston. Both told me that they had joined Caroline through knowing other members of the crew. Tony Gareth had been working alongside Robin Ross in Ireland. He went out to the ship on August 7th 1983, the DJs had been left to believe that everything was ready for them, but

when they got on board the Ross Revenge they found that although the parts were there the studio itself was yet to be built, so the DJs had to put the pieces together themselves. I suggested to Tony that he tried to play a more chart orientated programme "Yes, I tried to create my own style, but it wasn't too popular with everybody".

Carl Kingston had known Peter Clarke and when Caroline was mentioned to him he sent a tape. Once offered a job on the station Carl told me he didn't have to think about it. "There was total Freedom" he said. Carl thought that there was certainly a difference between Caroline and the ILR stations he has worked on since. Caroline has a bigger audience and with ILR you only have to say something and the phones go off. Carl says he would like to have a radio system in Britain similar to that in the United States. He says he has some "Fond memories" of Caroline.

The day ended with the Anorak of the Year competition, the high spot of which was certainly the Peter Florence impersonation of Caroline Short Wave's Freddie Archer. (I was sitting near to Dave Caine, who practically killed himself with laughter)

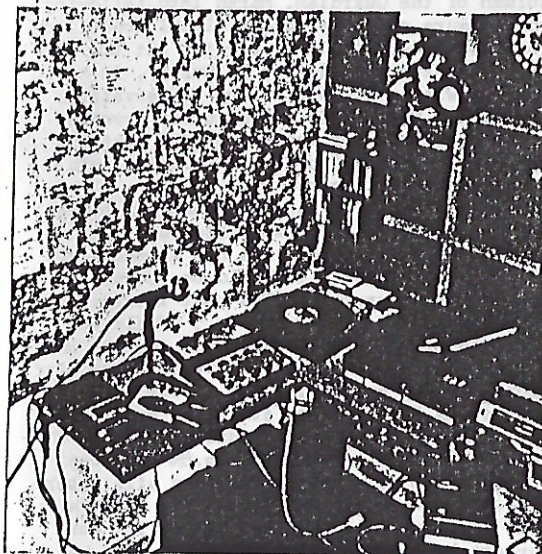
Although the hall was very full it was well worth the trip into the capital. We must not forget to mention the various Free Radio stands around the hall from Radio Jackie, The Caroline Movement, RNLI, East London Radio Campaign and Anoraks UK - see you all next year.

ELECTRON ELECTRONICS now at Po Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk. PE36 5AU. Electron can supply you with your own custom built Short Wave transmitter, from 17watts. Write for full details. We also stock aerials and crystals. Electron run the Technical section of FREE THE AIRWAVES.

ANORAKS U.K. Po Box 539, Blackpool FY1 4RE stock Britain's best selection of Free Radio material. Records reminding you of the Off-shore stations of the 60's and 70's. T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, books, posters and Magazines. Also an extensive selection of Irish Free Radio Tapes. Send for our lists.

FREE RADIO ROUND-UP Po Box 539, Blackpool, FY1 4RE. The newest Free Radio magazine keeps you up to date on Short Wave Free Radio, together with some fascinating features on Free Radio in years gone by. Send 40p + a stamped addressed envelope for your copy.

D.I.Y. RADIO



There is not much point in spending time and money on a Transmitter if you do not construct a good studio to go with it. The basic requirements for a 'Free Radio' studio are

1. Mixer
2. Two record decks
3. Microphone
4. Cassette player (for recording programmes)
- Cassette player (for playing jingles)

The amount of money you spend on a studio is really up to you, although you must remember that if you are on FM the studio quality will need to be more superior than if you are working on the AM bands.

Your mixer will need to have at least four channels going in and two going out. This is so you can hear exactly what is being transmitted or recorded. Mixers vary considerably in price with the Citronic mixers at the top of the range. Tandy produce a number of Mixers with their Disco mixer available for around £60, a type used by many operators. It features full monitoring facilities and a cross-fade for mixing from one record to the next. Tandy also produce a less expensive model for around £40.

Record Decks are undoubtedly an essential part of the studio! For many years Garrad produced an excellent deck -SP25 II, but

this has now been discontinued, although you may be able to pick one up if you shop around. BSR produce an equally good unit, operating on the two speeds, Isherwoods Electronics are able to supply these separately so you can cut the board to suit yourself. A broadcast type cartridge is required should you want to cue the records up professionally. These are made by Stanton, with the Stanton 500AL available at £19.95 from Luton Sound and Lighting.

Microphones will need to be of good quality and you must make sure they are of the correct impedance to go with your mixer. A wide selection of Microphones can be found in the Maplin catalogue, but do not expect to pay much less than £15 for one of suitable quality.

Cassette recorders and players will need to have a socket for a five pin plug, or phono plugs so it can be connected to the mixer direct. Phillips make some excellent machines and it is desirable to have a level metre to check you are not making much noise if there is not one on the mixer.

Layout of the studio has to be taken into consideration as well. Everything has to be in easy reach of the DJ, and this includes records and jingles, try to leave space for notepaper in case there is something you wish to jot down.

Switches to start the decks moving without stretching too far are a good idea. The neon lamp type are able to indicate instantly if the deck is on, a capacitor placed between the two on tags on the switch will stop a click appearing in the wrong place. A suitable value is +50ohms

When wiring in your studio try and keep the audio cables away from electrical wires to prevent any mains hum. One final point if you are unsure about any of the electrical wiring ask somebody else. As they say on Blue Peter, "Ask a grown up to help you"

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Tandy Corporation
Bilston Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands
WS10 7JN
Isherwoods Electronics,
Hozier Street, Blackburn.
Luton Sound and Lighting
82-88 Wellington Street, Luton LU1 5AA
Maplin Electronics
282-284 London Road, Westcliff on Sea
Essex.

In our June issue we conclude this series with programming and station format.